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La Delinquenza in Vari Stati di Europa. Per AUGUSTO BOSCO.
Roma: Tipografia della R. Accademia dei Lincei, 1903.
Estratto del *Bulletin de l'Institut international de statistique*,
tome XIII, 4^{me} livraison.

THIS valuable contribution to the study of the statistics of crime discusses in an introductory chapter the difficulty of interpretation of criminal statistics, makes a clear statement of the standards of judgment employed in the work, and shows how far the figures are comparable and adequate. The official reports of eight countries are employed—those of Italy, France, Spain, Austria, Germany, England, Ireland, and Scotland. The absence of judicial statistics for the entire country, and the inadequacy of the prison statistics, excludes the United States from consideration. Here is a solid and convincing argument for extending the activities of the new bureau of the federal government at Washington.

So far as possible, the statistics of each country are presented in the same order for purposes of final comparison and for discovery of general tendencies. For example, in dealing with England the author sketches the social history of England during the nineteenth century, so far as it throws light on the causes of crime and on the fluctuations in the phenomena studied. Tables are given from the official reports which show the absolute numbers of crimes, misdemeanors, and minor offenses from 1861 to 1899, and also the numbers of each offense to 100,000 inhabitants. In connection with each table there is an interpretation of the tendencies, an estimate of the value of the figures, a suggestion of facts not presented in the tables, and the causes which seem to account for the fluctuations and tendencies. The conclusions reached do not differ essentially from those of Hall, in *Crime and Social Progress*, and from other recent writers who have had the original reports before them. Serious crimes, especially attended with violence, seem to diminish. Offenses against social regulations would appear to be increasing, although the apparent statistical increase is caused in many cases, not by greater lawlessness, but by better enforcement of law, as is true in respect to drunkenness.

The variations of the phenomena by countries, by districts, and by offenses are contrasted with the social conditions of geographical areas and time periods in a way to disclose the varying stress of different forms.

At the close of the volume the movements of criminality are repre-

sented in extended tables which enable one to gain a general view of all crimes for each country; and the notes in the appendix carefully explain the Italian technical phrases in the language of the codes of the countries from which the reports come.

Altogether this work is a decidedly helpful arrangement and explanation of the principal data concerning the phenomena of crime. One of the merits of the footnotes is that they bring up the bibliography of the subject to date with great fulness and discrimination.

CHARLES RICHMOND HENDERSON.

Das öffentliche Armenwesen in Hamburg während der Jahre 1893-1902. Darstellung seiner Reorganisation und weiteren Entwicklung. Hamburg: Herausgegeben vom Armen-Kollegium, 1903.

HAMBURG presents all the problems of poor relief in a seaport town with a cosmopolitan population and a complex system of public and private agencies of benevolence. Its methods were radically revised in the eighteenth century and improved when the "Elberfeld" system was adopted in the nineteenth century. With changed conditions it was found in 1892 that new adjustments were required, and Dr. E. Münsterberg, then a mayor of another city, was called to be director and guide of the new arrangements. After he went to Berlin, Dr. Buehl succeeded him and carried out the plan.

The pamphlet issued to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the reorganization is before us, and it gives a full and satisfactory account and explanation of the history of poor relief in Hamburg since 1892. The methods and results of outdoor, institutional, and medical relief, and the care of dependent children, are minutely presented with a wealth of statistical material beautifully printed. One seems to see into the very heart of the German municipal methods of charity.

CHARLES RICHMOND HENDERSON.

Politische Geographie, oder die Geographie der Staaten, des Verkehrs und des Krieges. Von FRIEDRICH RATZEL. Zweite umgearbeitete Auflage. Mit vierzig Kartenskizzen. München und Berlin: R. Oldenbourg, 1903. Pp. 838.

THE first edition of this important work by one of the first masters of the subject appeared in 1897. This second edition not only gives